

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 ACDA-07 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00
/090 W
-----231420Z 055239 /47

R 230730Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5545
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU
SUBJECT: PRE-VIENNA DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 15-21

REF: (A) NICOSIA 0712 (DTG 151021 MAR 77)
(B) NICOSIA 0686 (DTG 111450Z MAR 77)
(C) NICOSIA 0753 (DTG 171529Z MAR 77)

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1. SUMMARY. WITH JUST OVER A WEEK TO GO BEFORE VIENNA, LEADERS OF BOTH COMMUNITIES HAVE CONTINUED TO SPEAK ON THE PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATION OF CYPRIOT PROBLEM. COMMUNIST AKEL MOVED INTO MORE PRO-NEGOTIATION STANCE. GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS DIVIDED ALONG PARTY LINES BUT ON THE WHOLE VIEWED VIENNA WITH CAUTIOUS HOPE. AEGEAN EXERCISES AND FIR CONTROVERSY CAUSED GREEK CYPRIOTS TO QUESTION TURKISH INTENTIONS.

END SUMMARY

2. ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, ADDRESSING A CONFERENCE OF THE CIVIL SERVANTS TRADE UNION (PASYDY) MAR 19, REPEATED THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WILL BE GOING TO VIENNA "IN GOOD FAITH AND GOOD WILL" AND IS PREPARED TO COMPROMISE; SAID HE COULD NOT FORECAST PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT; AND PROMISED THAT "THE PEOPLE WILL BE ASKED TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEW ON ANY SETTLEMENT REACHED".

3. HOUSE PRESIDENT AND PRO-MAKARIOS DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER KYPRIANOU, WHOSE RECENT STRIDENT SPEECHES ARE SAID TO HAVE PROMPTED A REPRIMAND FROM MAKARIOS, ASSUMED A SLIGHTLY MORE MODERATE TONE THIS WEEK. SPEAKING MAR 20 IN LARNACA, HE CONSPICUOUSLY AVOIDED CALL FOR RETURN OF ALL REFUGEES, REPEATED WARNINGS ABOUT "PARTITIONIST" SOLUTIONS, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CYPRIOTS ARE NOW ANXIOUS FOR A SETTLEMENT PROVIDED IT DOES NOT LEAD TO GREATER DIFFICULTIES IN FUTURE. PRO-CLERIDES PRESS AND CIRCLES, MEANWHILE, GLEEFULLY NOTED APPARENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN KYPRIANOU AND MAKARIOS ON NEGOTIATIONS AND ADVISED THAT KYPRIANOU SHOULD GIVE UP PRETENSE (AND PRESUMABLY POLITICAL BENEFITS) OF BEING POLITICAL LEADER CLOSEST TO MAKARIOS.

4. LYSSARIDES AND EDEK CONTINUED TO BE CHARY ABOUT VIENNA BUT SEEM FOR THE MOMENT TO HAVE ACQUIESCED IN MAKARIOS' NEW AND MORE FLEXIBLE NEGOTIATING TACK. SPEAKING MAR 17 AND 20, LYSSARIDES INSISTED ON RIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SETTLEMENT, PROPERTY, AND MOVEMENT, STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AND BROAD INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES. HE SAID HE WOULD NEVER ACCEPT SOLUTION WITHOUT RIGHT OF RETURN FOR ALL REFUGEES; CRITIZED CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS FOR CREATING "FALSE CLIMATE OF EUPHORIA" IN REPORTING ALLEGED CHANGE OF U.S. POLICY TOWARDS CYPRUS; AND STRESSED THAT U.S. INVOLVEMENT WAS ONLY TO PROVIDE EXCUSE TO RESUME MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY.

5. IN SHARP CONTRAST TO EDEK'S POSITION WAS SPEECH COMMUNIST LABOR LEADER ZIARTIDES GAVE IN LIMASSOL MAR 14 AND LARGELY REPEATED IN INTERVIEW WITH PRO-GOVERNMENT WEEKLY KYPROS MAR 21. THE COMMUNIST LEADER SAID IN DISCUSSING CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS, THAT THE GREATEST DANGER DOES NOT LIE IN OVER-OPTIMISM BUT IN UNDERESTIMATING THE OPPORTUNITIES BEING PRESENTED; CALLED ON NATIONAL COUNCIL UNDER MAKARIOS' LEADERSHIP TO TAKE BOLD DECISIONS ON DELICATE AND DIFFICULT ASPECTS OF CYPRUS PROBLEM; ARGUED THAT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ARE

IN ACCORD WITH SOVIET CALLS FOR "INTERNATIONALIZATION"
AND POINTED OUT THAT LARGEST INTERNATIONAL BODY
OF ALL, I.E. U.N., HAS REPEATEDLY URGED GREEK AND TURK
CYPRIOTS TO CONTINUE TALKS UNTIL PEACEFUL SOLUTION
EMERGED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOVIET UNION, WHILE CALLING
FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS, HAD ALWAYS
STRESSED THAT CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM SHOULD
BE PRIMARILY CONCERN OF THE TWO SIDES. COMMENT: WE
JUDGE THESE SENTIMENTS FROM THE COMMUNIST LEFT WILL
HELP MAKARIOS TO REBUT LYSSARIDES' CRITICISM OF THE
CURRENT NEGOTIATING PROCESS. THE PRO-CLERIDES WEEKLY
ALITHIA MAR 21 ALSO FELT GRATIFIED THAT MAKARIOS,
CLERIDES AND AKEL WERE APPARENTLY UNITED BY A DETERMINATION
NOT TO ALLOW THE AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON THE CYPRUS
PROBLEM TO BE WASTED. ZIARTIDES' INTERESTING EXPLANATION
OF "INTERNATIONALIZATION" STRIKES US AS A GRACEFUL EXIT
FROM A POLICY POSITION WHICH HAS FAILED TO DATE TO PRODUCE
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RESULTS AND WHICH NO LONGER ATTRACTS MUCH ENTHUSIASM IN
GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY. END COMMENT.

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6. ON TURKISH SIDE, PAST WEEK WAS MARKED BY CONTINUING STATEMENTS FROM TOP OFFICIALS, PRESS CRITICISM OF U.S. FOR "MEDDLING" IN CYPRUS AND ENCOURAGING GREEK CYPRIOT INTRANSIGENCE, AND CONCERN ABOUT GREEK CYPRIOT "INTRIGUES." DENKTASH SAID HIS SIDE IS "GOING TO VIENNA IN A SPIRIT OF REALISM AND EXPECTS THE SAME RESPONSE"; REPEATED THEME OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS' LONG YEARS OF SUFFERING AT HANDS OF GREEK CYPRIOTS; BLAMED GREEK SIDE FOR WASTING TWO YEARS
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BY AVOIDING SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AND RESORTING TO UN; WARNED GREEKS NOT TO TRY TO UNDERMINE BIZONAL FEDERATION BY EXPLOITING PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM OF SETTLEMENT AND MOVEMENT; STRESSED THAT TERRITORIAL QUESTION MUST BE SOLVED ON BASIS OF LAND OWNERSHIP, ECONOMIC VIABILITY, AND SECURITY; AND CLAIMED THAT TURKS NOW CONTROLLED ONLY 30 PERCENT OF CYPRUS' RESOURCES.

7. "TFSC FOREIGN MINISTER" CHELIK AND NEGOTIATOR ONAN CRITICIZED RECENT STATEMENTS OF PAPADOPOULOS AND KYPRIANOU, TERMING THEM A REFLECTION OF GOC LEADERSHIP'S "NEGATIVE MENTALITY" AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH GOOD WILL. CHELIK ALSO SAID PROGRESS COULD BE MADE AT VIENNA IF (A) GREEKS ACCEPT BIREGIONAL FEDERATION; (B) THEY DO NOT INSIST ON IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRINCIPLES (I.E., FREEDOM OF SETTLEMENT AND MOVEMENT) PROVIDED FOR IN A NORMAL FEDERAL SYSTEM; (C) THEY LET TIME HEAL PAST WOUNDS AND RESOLVE SOME ISSUES; AND (D) THEY DO NOT UPSET THE AGREED POPULATION EXCHANGE WHICH PROVIDES BASIS FOR PEACE.

8. OTHER ATMOSHPERICS:

--MEETING BETWEEN THE GREEK CYPRIOT SEK AND THE TURK-SEN (REF B) MAR 20 UNDER AUSPICES ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN PROVIDED HELPFUL EXAMPLE OF FRIENDLY INTERCOMMUNAL CONTACT. AS FIRST SUCH NON-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE SINCE 1974, THIS MEETING HAS HEARTENED THOSE IN BOTH COMMUNITIES WHO ARE SEEKING WAYS TO BRIDGE

THE ISLAND'S DIVISION.

--BEGINNING OF TURKISH NAVAL AND AIR EXERCISES IN THE
AEGEAN MAR 21 HAS HAD DEPRESSING EFFECT ON GREEK
CYPRIOTS WHO VIEW THE CURRENT EXERCISES ON THE EVE OF
THE VIENNA TALKS AS EVIDENCE OF TURKISH ILL WILL AND
MILITARY AMBITIONS IN THE AEGEAN.

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--THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY HAS ALSO VIEWED THE
CURRENT FIR DISPUTE (REF C) AS YET FURTHER EVIDENCE OF
TURKISH INSENSITIVITIES AND AN UNTIMELY EXACERBRATION OF
A SITUATION WHICH HAS ALREADY ENOUGH FACETS OF CONFLICT.
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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